

Tom McCourt

75 Years Old and Still Helping People

29 Mar 1989

To see him jump up out of his chair when his pager goes off you'd think Tom McCourt was a young 50-year-old. Add 25 years to that guess and you'd be closer to the truth.

At 75, McCourt is the oldest EMT in the State of Utah, but you'd never know it by the stamina and energy he daily exhibits as he keeps himself prepared to answer his pager almost every weekday, in addition to taking his evening and weekend scheduled shifts.

It can't be for the money — EMT's are only paid $6 an hour for each run they make; many days there are no runs, but some days there are quite a few. When they are actually scheduled, which is only in the evenings and on weekends, they receive a mere thirty-two cents an hour.

According to McCourt's daughter, Valene Jensen, who has lived in Midway for about 10 years, he does it to be useful and to give him a purpose in life. Said Jensen, "Since my mother, his sweetheart of 53 years, died last year, this has helped him immensely by keeping him busy and giving him a direction."

According to Barbara Murdock, a fellow EMT, he is of tremendous value to the staff. He keeps himself free during the day when most other EMT's are unavailable. He is certified as a basic EMT, which means he can drive the ambulance and work with a patient in lifesaving ways. To certify as an emergency medical technician is no easy task even for one much younger than McCourt's 72 years — the age he was two and a half years ago when he took the 150 hours of instruction necessary to certify.

Tom has lived in Heber Valley for about 20 years. Originally he came from Sunnyside in East Carbon County, where he was the mine superintendent for Keiser Steel in the coal mines there for about 40 years.

When he retired with them, he went to work as a safety engineer first for Boyle Brothers on a water project in Strawberry, and then for Westcon, treating their accident cases. That's when he decided to train as an EMT so he could be qualified to help even more. Now it has become a very important part of his life, according to his daughter, Mrs. Jensen.

Most of the time he's one of the first ones to respond to calls because he lives the closest to the station. He has the ambulance out and is ready to go when the next EMT arrives within seconds or minutes, making it possible to take off — they need at least two certified personnel to respond to calls — and possibly to save someone's life.

Our emergency medical crews, which are known as a sort-of volunteer ambulance organization even though they actually work as employees of the hospital, are a dedicated group and give many hours of valuable service to our community.

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...Vasatch County Commission meet ...the County at the Wasatch County ...m.

... Concert of Choirs" at 7 p.m. at the ...n. Tickets can be purchased from any

...ied chicken dinner benefit for Earl ...; breakfast, April 9, 10:30 a.m.-1 ...turday night. Please come and help a

...gn-up at Wasatch County Services ...**Saturday, April 8**, 9 a.m.-noon.

...ummer softball league registration, ...plex, 805 West 100 South.

...**our trash out by 6 a.m.**

...ity, Monday-Thursday, 8 p.m. at ...West 100 South.

...is planning an event and would like ...Events, please contact *The Wasatch*

Commissioners Di... Concerns With Re...

Rep. Beverly Evans told the Wasatch County Commission last week that legislative decisions during the last session were mostly "generic," not directly impacting Wasatch County, and asked the Commission what issues she can help with.

Chairman Moroni Besendorfer responded that finding a local landfill site is a big issue and that the County would appreciate her help, particularly to get some state land.

Commissioner Pete Coleman reported the Division of Wildlife admits to disposing of deer killed by motorists by "pulling them behind a tree or dumping them somewhere out of sight, which is against the law." Besendorfer said between 100 and 300 head had been disposed of in that manner because there is no other place for them in Wasatch County.

"It's a burden to us and it's a health hazard, and we need to have them work with us so we can acquire a place to handle that type ... disposal," he explained.

Some of the deer have l... Wildlife Resources ground and ... being killed on the highway in ... Wallsburg area, Coleman sai... Therefore, he said Wildlife h... some responsibility to coopera... with the County's efforts to ge... landfill, to solve the animal di... posal problem.

Wildlife Resources nixed t... County's hopes for a landfill s... above Wallsburg, claiming it wou... interfere with wildlife winter rang...

Evans reported she had alrea... begun to talk to Wildli... representatives about working wi... the County and that now is a ve... good time to discuss a cooperati... effort.

Commissioner LaRen Provo... said money is needed to develop ... new spring for the Lake Creek w... ter supply. Evans said if the peop... in the area will organize and p... pressure on the Community Impa...

...posal To Enhance 9-1-1 ...Additional Charge

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9-1-1 can shorten response time by as much as three minutes, which can be critical in some emergency situations. One reason is that the caller can relay information about the emergency without wasting any time trying to remember an address or describing a location. In fact, the appropriate equipment responding to the correct address as soon as the call is received, even before the details of the emergency are described.

Although populous communities can afford the cost of installing the enhanced system, small rural counties, like Wasatch, might never be able to. Therefore, US West's proposal is to provide the system throughout the state, without charge.

The proposal will be presented as part of the company's 1989 rate case. If approved by the PSC, the $5.7 million cost would be considered part of US West's expenses and spread over four years. Wasatch County users will begin paying 50 cents per month on April 1, to fund the 9-1-1 already in service, the maximum allowed by law. So they will pay no additional user fees. According to Carol Dunlap, US West, it would only mean County subscribers probably wouldn't get refunds like the average 18 cents each that was refunded last year.

The Utah League of Cities a... Towns last summer sent a resolu... tion to the PSC supporting th... proposal. The Utah Legislatu... unanimously passed HJR 17 durin... the 1989 General Session, statin... "The Legislature strongly recom... mends that the Public Servic... Commission encourage telephon... companies operating in Utah t... upgrade the technology availabl... throughout the state so that com... munities that desire to install En... hanced 9-1-1 emergency phone ser... vice for their citizens can do so."

Dunlap reported that Rep. Bev... erly Evans and Rep. Glenn Brow... support US West's proposal.

...on ...g Raising

Police Report

A box of cassette tapes and a small radio were found when the ...

one a three-speed Rowly, and th... other a 10-speed Huff...